

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A washing appliance clutch for transferring rotational power from a motor to a driven basket for rotating the driven basket about a basket axis, the washing appliance clutch comprising:

a drive member adapted to be driven by the motor for rotation about a drive axis;

the drive member comprising a first cam surface;

an intermediate plate engaged by the drive member for rotation with the drive member about the drive axis;

the intermediate plate having comprising

an outer peripheral edge;

a plurality of cutout portions that create a plurality of weakened points in the intermediate plate,

the weakened points in the intermediate plate permitting flexing of the intermediate plate

in response to centrifugal force during rotation of the intermediate plate;

a first group of the cutout portions comprising slots extending from the outer peripheral edge

inwardly toward the drive axis;

a second group of the cutout portions located completely inwardly from the peripheral edge of

the intermediate plate;

a first cam follower surface engaging the first cam surface of the drive member;

a hub surrounding the outer peripheral edge of the intermediate plate in close spaced relation thereto;

the outer peripheral edge of the intermediate plate being capable of flexing in response to centrifugal force during rotation of the intermediate plate from a retracted position free from engagement with the hub to an expanded position engaging the hub and rotating the hub about the drive axis.

Claims 2-5 (Cancelled)

Claim 6 (Currently amended): A washing appliance clutch according to claim 5, 1 wherein the motor includes an agitator-agitation mode in which it drives the drive member in a first rotational direction, the motor including a spin mode in which it drives the drive member in a second rotational direction.

Claim 7 (Currently amended): A washing appliance clutch according to claim 6 wherein the first cam surface and the first cam follower surface cooperate to flex the outer peripheral edge of the intermediate plate from the retracted to the expanded position during rotation of the drive member in the second first rotational direction when the motor is in the agitator-agitation mode.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): A washing appliance clutch according to claim 7 wherein the outer peripheral edge of the intermediate plate flexes from the retracted to the expanded position solely in response to centrifugal force during rotation of the intermediate plate when the motor is in the spin mode.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): A washing appliance clutch according to claim 1 and further comprising a high friction material positioned between on the outer peripheral edge of the intermediate plate and on the hub for facilitating frictional engagement between the hub and the outer peripheral edge of the intermediate plate during rotation of the intermediate plate.

Claim 10 (Currently amended): In combination:
a washing appliance having a basket mounted for rotation about a drive axis;
a motor capable of imparting rotational power;
a drive member driven by the motor for rotation about the drive axis;
the drive member having a first cam surface;

an intermediate plate having a first cam follower surface engaging the first cam surface of the drive member engaged by the drive member for rotation with the drive member about the drive axis;
the intermediate plate having an outer peripheral edge;
a hub surrounding the outer peripheral edge of the intermediate plate and being attached to the basket;
the outer peripheral edge of the intermediate plate being capable of flexing in response to centrifugal force during rotation of the intermediate plate from a retracted position free from engagement with the hub to an expanded position engaging the hub and rotating the hub about the drive axis.

Claim 11 (Currently amended): A method for transferring rotational movement from a motor to a washing appliance basket mounted within a washing appliance for rotation about a drive axis, the method comprising:
connecting the motor to a drive member[[;]], the drive member having a first cam surface;
mounting an intermediate member having a first cam follower surface for rotation relative to the drive member;
rotating the drive member to cause the first cam surface to engage the first cam follower surface on the intermediate plate to cause the intermediate plate to rotate, placing the drive member in driving connection with an intermediate plate so that rotation of the drive member will cause rotation of the intermediate plate, the intermediate plate having an expandable outer peripheral edge;
surrounding the outer peripheral edge of the intermediate plate with an annular hub connected to rotate the washing appliance basket[[;]],
~~activating the motor to rotate the drive member and cause rotation of the intermediate plate, whereby the outer peripheral edge of the intermediate plate will flex in response to centrifugal force from a retracted position spaced in an inner radial direction from the~~

annular hub to an expanded position frictionally engaging and rotating the hub ~~and the washing appliance basket; and~~
~~connecting the rotating hub to the washing appliance basket for rotating the washing appliance basket.~~

Claim 12 (Original): A method according to claim 11 wherein the rotation of the drive member by the motor is in a first rotational direction, the motor being reversible to cause rotation of the drive member in a second rotational direction opposite from the first rotational direction.

Claim 13 (Currently amended): A method according to claim 11 wherein the motor is capable of operating in ~~an agitation mode to rotate the drive member in a first rotational direction, and the motor is capable of operating in~~ a spin mode to rotate the drive member continuously only in the ~~first~~ ~~second~~ rotational direction, and the motor is capable of operating in ~~an agitator mode to rotate the drive member in the second rotational direction.~~

Claim 14 (New): A method according to claim 11 wherein activating the motor to rotate the drive member in an agitation mode in a first rotational direction causes rotation of the intermediate plate; the method further comprising flexing the outer peripheral edge of the intermediate plate from the retracted to the expanded position by cooperating the first cam surface of the drive member with the first cam follower surface of the intermediate plate.

Claim 15 (New): A method according to claim 14 wherein activating the motor to rotate the drive member in a spin mode in a second rotational direction causes rotation of the intermediate plate; the method further comprising flexing the outer peripheral edge of the intermediate plate from the retracted to the expanded position solely using centrifugal force during rotation of the intermediate plate.

Claim 16 (New): The combination according to claim 10 wherein the outer peripheral edge of the intermediate plate is capable of flexing from the retracted position to the expanded position in response to cooperation between the first cam surface and the first cam follower surface during rotation of the intermediate plate in a first rotational direction.

Claim 17 (New): The combination according to claim 16 wherein the outer peripheral edge of the intermediate plate is capable of flexing from the retracted position to the expanded position solely in response to centrifugal force during rotation of the intermediate plate in a second rotational direction.